



Siesta Key Chapel
God's Treehouse

DECEMBER 2023



Key Notes

NEWSLETTER

4615 GLEASON AVE, SIESTA KEY ■ 941-349-1166 ■ SiestaKeyChapel.org

From the Pastor's Desk

A Culture of Generosity

"Tell them about the dream, Martin!" As Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. began his well-crafted, scholarly speech that fateful day in 1963, the Gospel singer Mahalia Jackson cried out from the choir, **"Tell them about the dream, Martin!"** And in that moment, Dr. King put aside his notes, took a deep breath, and spoke the now-famous words, "I have a dream." And in this dream, he turns our eyes to the immortal words of the prophet Isaiah, a dream still relevant for us today:

*I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted,
every hill and mountain shall be made low,
the rough places will be made plain,
and the crooked places will be made straight,
and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together.*

Dr. King's dream calls for our active partnering with God in working for justice and mercy with compassion and intelligence. As Reformed Christians, we are saved to serve. **God's grace comes first; we respond with thankfulness and service.** We are creatures with a special job as stewards to care for all of creation, before we hand it over to those who will follow. The apostle Peter encourages us, **"Like good stewards of God's grace, serve one another with the gifts you have been given"** (1 Peter 4:10).

Presbyterian minister Todd Bolsinger, author of *Canoeing the Mountains* and *Tempered Resilience*, challenges us with a deeper understanding of Stewardship, moving from an annual pledge card drive alone, to a year-round **Culture of Generosity**. "Stewardship," he says, "is about taking care of what is most valuable and accomplishing together what all of us most want to get done." And just what is that? I would venture that the mission statement of Siesta Key Chapel, which you read every Sunday on the cover of our Order of Worship, continues to be our vibrant and worthy guide in living lives of joyful stewardship:

*Surrounded by the beauty of creation,
we respond to God's grace in
worship, fellowship, and praise,
eager to grow in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior
as we follow the Spirit's call to love one another,
proclaim the Gospel and serve the world God loves.*

In this Advent season, as we prepare our hearts for the birth of our Savior, we are invited to invest ourselves—time, talents and treasures—in good stewardship, sowed in abundance, reflecting our very identity as people of faith seeking to restore God's creation. **And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together.**



Merry Christmas!

*Joyfully,
Pastor Ruth*



Siesta Key Chapel at Bay Village Thanksgiving luncheon.
Left: Mickey Shoop, Mary Jane Smith, Louise Cashman, Joyce Meier
Right: Pastor Ruth, Linda Raymond, Beryl Perry, Janet Steele

MUSIC DIRECTOR & ORGANIST - Conner Stigner



Happy New Year! This greeting is not one moment premature as the first Sunday of Advent marks the start of a **new liturgical year for the Church**. We have an opportunity, in the weeks preceding January 1st, to personally examine ourselves and how we choose to move forward into the next year exemplifying the Love of Christ. This Christmas also marks 730 days, or two years, since my move from Northern Indiana to Sarasota, FL. The word 'grateful' does not encompass my retroactive appreciation for each and every day that I've spent here, the friendships that I have forged, and all that I've learned. For me, during this time of preparation, I think about the text sung by the great Bing Crosby...

**"You got to ac-cen-tu-ate the positive
E-lim-i-nate the negative
And latch on to the affirmative
Don't mess with Mr. In-between
You got to spread joy up to the maximum
Bring gloom down to the minimum
And have faith, or pandemonium
Liable to walk upon the scene"**

Our SKC **Chapel Choir** has resumed rehearsals as of mid-November. I am grateful that we have garnered a few new members from our Beach Ministry and we are toiling especially hard to prepare for Christmas Eve. Rehearsals take place on Wednesday mornings at **9:30AM in the Music Room**. All are welcome without regard to experience. As I always say, "Whether you sing like Pavarotti or Kermit - **YOU are welcome!**"

We are also looking for a few good people that have the desire to learn a bit about our **bells** and perform a piece of music on Christmas Eve. See Conner after Worship for more details.

Joke of the Month:

Many people told Beethoven that he would never be a musician because he was deaf. I'm so grateful he didn't listen!



BUILDINGS, GROUNDS & TECHNOLOGY - Barry Cline

Let There be Light!

Outside and Inside lighting highlight the B&G improvements this month.



- **FPL** has finally replaced the south end (ODA) Electrical Pole with a **new LED Light**. The old Light was destroyed when a truck hit the light pole last year. So it is nice to have our Parking area well lighted on that side of the campus.
- **VPI Inc** has installed lighting to enhance the visual experience for both streaming video and local event attendees with Chapel **stage and back lighting**. This will greatly improve the overall ambiance and visual appeal of events. Navigating a learning curve and addressing the power requirements for the back lights makes this a continuing work in progress.
- **Windemuller Electric** installed a (2) **Circuit runaway under the Ramp** to relocate underground wiring to an above ground solution that was causing circuit issues especially during the wet season. This new runway will vastly improve reliability for both the Pavilion light, the Cross light, and hopefully restore some of the parking lights.



CHAPEL ON THE BEACH - Rick Chenoweth

Find **faith and fellowship** at *Chapel on the Beach* every **Sunday at 9am**. The half-hour contemporary service offers a variety of music and musicians, scripture, prayer and an inspiring message, along with free coffee and bakery. Join us, and invite your friends and neighbors to meet at the beach on Sunday mornings. All are welcome to join in the joy of worshipping God in nature at Patriots/Sunset Pier, Beach Road and Avenida Messina.



MEN'S FELLOWSHIP - Dick Ulrich

Men's Fellowship is supporting the Beth-El Farmworkers Ministry Christmas Project providing gifts for children this Christmas. Anyone who would like to contribute financially to this project may write a check to:

Siesta Key Chapel Men's Fellowship

memo: **Beth-El Christmas Project**

To learn more about Beth-El Farmworkers Ministry Inc. visit their website at **<https://beth-el.org/>**. Jerry VanDyke is the Siesta Key Chapel representative/mission coordinator for Beth-El. You can contact Jerry with any questions you may have. 574-220-0687 or jvandyke1rad@aol.com.

MEMBERSHIP - Margie Kraft

NEW MEMBER CLASS

Sunday December 17, at 9:30am in classroom #4. To participate contact: Margie Kraft membership@siestakeychapel.org or 941-323-5900
Pastor Ruth Rev.RuthSmalt@siestakeychapel.org or 941-349-1166

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION - Julia & Mark Musto

Classes will resume in January with Melana Scruggs, General Presbyter. Fascinating topics await!

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

- 9:00 AM - Chapel on the Beach with Communion
- 10:30 AM - Worship in the Chapel: 4th Sunday of Advent
- 5:30 PM - Family Service with Live Nativity
- 8:00 PM - Traditional Candlelight Service with Communion



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

We invite you to join in celebrating the Birth of Christ by donating toward our Christmas poinsettias. Please give the Church Office the name(s) of those you would like honored or remembered, along with a **\$25 check made out to "Siesta Key Chapel"** with the **memo: "Poinsettia donation."** Donors and dedications will be listed in the Christmas Eve bulletins. You are welcome to take a poinsettia home after the Christmas Eve 8:00pm service.

GREENING OF THE CHAPEL

On Monday, November 27, SKC members and friends came together for an hour of joyous fellowship to prepare the Sanctuary and their hearts for the birth of Christ. Everyone enjoyed Advent music, cookies and coffee as they decorated the Chapel, set up the Christmas tree and sorted the Christmons to be placed on the tree Sunday, December 3.



Sam Tucker, Louise Cashman, Marilyn Miller, Joyce Tucker, Barry Cline, Dick Wilson



Sam Tucker



Dick Wilson



Joyce Tucker



Marilynn Miller, Louise Cashman, Mickey Shoop, Joyce Tucker

December



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 9:00am Chapel on the Beach 10:30am Worship in the Chapel with Communion	4	5 6:30pm NA	6 10am Bible Study 3:30pm Girl Scouts 7pm Ukulele Group	7 7pm AA	8	9
10 9:00am Chapel on the Beach 10:30am Worship in the Chapel	11	12 9:30am Knit & Sew 3pm Session 6:30pm NA	13 7pm Ukulele Group	14 7pm AA	15	16
17 9:00am Chapel on the Beach 10:30am Worship in the Chapel	18	19 6:30pm NA	20 3:30pm Girl Scouts 7pm Ukulele Group	21 7pm AA	22	23
24 CHRISTMAS EVE Chapel on the Beach 9:00am Chapel on the Beach 10:30am Worship in the Chapel 5:30pm Family Service with Live Nativity 8:00pm Candlelight Service with Communion	25 CHRISTMAS Office Closed 	26 6:30pm NA	27 7pm Ukulele Group	28 7pm AA	29	30



January

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 HAPPY NEW YEAR Church Office Closed	2	3 10am Bible Study 7pm Ukulele Group	4	5	6
7 9:00am Chapel on the Beach 9:30am Adult Christian Ed. 10:30am Worship in the Chapel with Communion	8	9 6:30pm NA	10 3:30pm Girl Scouts 7pm Ukulele Group	11 7pm AA	12	13
14 9:00am Chapel on the Beach 9:30am Adult Christian Ed. 10:30am Worship in the Chapel	15	16 9:30am Knit & Sew 6:30pm NA	17 10am Bible Study 7pm Ukulele Group	18 7pm AA	19	20
21 9:00am Chapel on the Beach 9:30am Adult Christian Ed. 10:30am Worship in the Chapel	22	23 4pm Session 6:30pm NA	24 3:30pm Girl Scouts 7pm Ukulele Group	25 7pm AA	26	27
28 9:00am Chapel on the Beach 10:30am Worship in the Chapel 11:15am Congregational Meeting 12:00pm All-Church Brunch	29	30 6:30pm NA	31 7pm Ukulele Group			

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Arnie Werling
- 4 Liz Smith
- 10 Barbara Stahlschmidt
- 12 Nancy MacKenzie
- 13 Ted Reiner
- 14 Joyce Meier
Karin Frye
- 20 Chad Weiss
- 24 Diane Schewe
Marilynn Miller
- 25 Dr. Chris Moen
- 28 Barbara Stephenson
- 29 Peter Kyle
- 30 Feng (Sara) Huan



DEACONS - Gary Rhodus



get well soon!



"Write a Card" Table

Write a Card after worship on the deck to brighten someone's day with a card of Thanks, Happy Birthday, Get Well Soon, Thinking of You, or Sympathy.

Cards are available for you to personalize. Address the envelope and the Deacons will add the stamp and make sure it goes out in the mail.